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## In the Specification

Please amend paragraph beginning at line 5 on page 1 as follows:

This application is a §371 national stage of PCT International Application No. PCT/US00/12536, filed May 4, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part and claims benefit priority of U.S. Serial No. 09/305,029, filed May 4, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,423,681 issued July 23, 2002, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

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information concerning the benefit being claimed by applicants of earlier filed applications and raises no issue of new matter. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, if an additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

hereby certify that correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop Issue Fee Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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